

many of them in expediting their requests for the benefits to which they are entitled, including mental health benefits. Unfortunately, many of these veterans still wait years for a resolution of their cases. This is simply unacceptable. These men and women have sacrificed their health, well-being, and, in some cases, their livelihoods, for this country.

The excessively long wait times at the VA are unjust and un-American. The wait times for veterans who are suicidal or suffering from mental health illnesses, including Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), are especially troubling.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support timely mental health services for our veterans by voting "yes" on this amendment.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF CITY OF LAS VEGAS MAYOR OSCAR GOODMAN

HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 14, 2011

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, today I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the achievements of the Mayor of the City of Las Vegas, Nevada, Oscar Goodman.

Mayor Goodman has worked tirelessly for the City of Las Vegas. From 1999 to 2011, the Mayor facilitated 19 community and recreational centers, eight transportation projects, eight fire stations, seven expansion and beautification projects, a water reclamation center, and a police area command station.

Mayor Goodman has been responsible for many great accomplishments in the heart of downtown. As Mayor, he was successful in acquiring a large piece of urban real estate in the City without resorting to eminent domain. Symphony Park will include the Lou Ruvo Brain Institute, Performing Arts Center, business, medical, and retail opportunities.

Mayor Goodman also managed to acquire a historic downtown post office from the General Services Administration. The building is being converted to a state-of-the-art museum capturing the excitement and notoriety of the history of Las Vegas. Also in the center of Las Vegas, an intellectual marketplace is being designed and will be home to the University of Nevada Las Vegas' (UNLV) School of Architecture, UNLV Modern Letters Program, and the Nevada School of the Arts.

Mayor Goodman serves as the Chairman of the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority and works non-stop to raise support for cultural programs and charities of Las Vegas.

Oscar Goodman first ran for Mayor of Las Vegas in 1999. By his third reelection bid in April 2007, Mayor Goodman captured 84 percent of the vote.

As the Congresswoman for the people of Las Vegas, it gives me great pleasure to recognize the achievements of the self-proclaimed "Happiest Mayor in the Universe," Mayor Oscar Goodman.

COMMENDING THE GRADUATES OF ROBINSON SECONDARY SCHOOL ON THEIR ENLISTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 14, 2011

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize nine graduating seniors in my community for their record of academic and athletic accomplishment and their admirable decision to enlist in the United States Armed Forces.

With graduation season upon us, thousands of young people in my community, and millions across the nation, are preparing for the next chapter in their lives. Some will pursue higher education or vocational training, others will seek to enter the workforce immediately, and many will answer the call to serve their community and their country.

I join with their families and friends in congratulating and commending the following Robinson Secondary School graduates on their enlistment:

United States Marines: Philipp Zinser, Daniel Kellam, Sam Lausier, Ji Jong Lee, Won Gyu Lee and Junsuk Choi

United States Navy: David Maeng

United States Air Force: Jade Vitali and Kevin Haas

At a time of great uncertainty both at home and abroad, these young people have stepped forward to follow in a long line of distinguished Virginians who selflessly volunteered to defend our nation and its ideals. In fact, these graduates hail from a school named for Sgt. James W. Robinson Jr., who was the first Virginian to receive the Medal of Honor for conspicuous gallantry and heroism during the Vietnam War. Sgt. Robinson's accomplishments continue to serve as a model for character and leadership not only for the students at the school bearing his name, but also for all those who seek to follow in his footsteps.

The Northern Virginia Chapter of Our Community Salutes will host a ceremony Thursday, June 9, to recognize these young people and their families and to wish them safety and success as they pursue a career in the Armed Forces.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding the courage and dedication of these graduates and in assuring them and their families that the full support and resources of the U.S. Congress and the American people will be behind them every step of their journey in defense of our nation's freedom.

INTRODUCTION OF THE REGULATORY BALANCE ACT

HON. STEPHEN LEE FINCHER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 14, 2011

Mr. FINCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss an issue of great importance to family farmers and agricultural businesses. The regulatory burdens placed on family farmers and the agriculture business hinder job creation, job retention, and innovative breakthroughs in technology and crop production. Family farm-

ers across the country lead the world in the production of a safe, secure food supply and provide a multi-billion dollar economic impact. In order for family farmers and the agriculture community to continue to prosper, the regulatory process must follow common sense and not be unduly burdensome.

That is why I am pleased to introduce the Regulatory Balance Act, which codifies into federal statute the cost benefit analysis required by Executive Order 12866. Simply put, any regulation with a significant economic impact of \$100 million or more proposed by the United States Department of Agriculture, USDA, the Environmental Protection Agency, EPA, and the Food and Drug Administration, FDA, must perform a cost-benefit analysis and report the same to Congress before the regulation takes effect. A cost-benefit analysis would determine whether a proposed regulation would have a negative economic impact on our Nation's economy.

As a farmer, I understand the costs associated with many of the regulations placed upon the agriculture community. By guaranteeing a more transparent, efficient regulatory process that works for family farmers instead of against them, the rural areas of my district and this country will thrive. Family farmers and the agriculture community will continue to be the best in the world as long as federal agriculture regulations are evenly balanced between cost and benefit.

Creating a stable regulatory environment, where balance between the cost to family farmers and the agriculture community is balanced with the benefit of the regulation, allows family farms and the agriculture community to invest and grow their business without added costs due to regulations that fly in the face of common sense.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues in the House (and Senate) to support me in passing the Regulatory Balance Act and bring stability and balance to the regulatory process.

THE STATE OF TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES H.R. NO. 1955

HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 14, 2011

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following:

H.R. No. 1955

RESOLUTION

Whereas, The United States Fish and Wildlife Service has proposed granting endangered species status to the dunes sagebrush lizard, a measure that would have a significant negative impact on the Lone Star State; and

Whereas, The business climate in Texas has been consistently ranked as the nation's best, and the oil and gas sector is crucial to its continued vitality; Texas is the nation's leading producer of oil and natural gas, and it holds 30 percent of the nation's natural gas reserves and almost a quarter of its oil reserves; the oil and gas industry contributes \$30 billion annually to the Texas economy and employs more than 315,000 Texans at some of the highest salaries in the state; and

Whereas, Despite its resilience, the Texas economy has not been immune to the global economic recession; there have been significant job losses over the past two years, and